

COLORADO

SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL
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SERVICE

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CROP PRODUCTION - JULY 2011

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Colorado is now forecast at 72.0 million bushels according to the Colorado Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This is up 5 percent from the June 1 forecast but 32 percent below last year's production. Growers expect to harvest 2.0 million acres this year, down 350,000 acres from 2010. The state's average yield is forecast at 36.0 bushels per acre, 9.0 bushels per acre below the record high yield attained the previous year but 4.0 bushels per acre above the June forecast. **Barley** production is initially forecast at 8.44 million bushels, up 1.0 percent from the 2010 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 67,000 acres, up from 63,000 harvested last year but yield is forecast at 126.0 bushels per acre, 7.0 bushels below last year. **Fall potato** growers in the San Luis Valley planted 54,000 acres this year, down 3 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 53,800 acres, down 1,400 acres from 2010. The first 2011 fall potato production forecast will be released November 9, 2011. **Summer potato** production is expected to reach 1.58 million hundredweight for 2011 up 13 percent from the 2010 crop. Growers expect to harvest 4,400 acres this year, up 16 percent from the previous year. Average yield is initially forecast at 360 hundredweight per acre, 10 hundredweight below last year's yield. Colorado's 2011 **peach** crop is initially forecast at 13,000 tons, down 1,000 tons from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.49 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the June 1 forecast and up slightly from 2010. Based on July 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 46.2 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from last month but down 0.6 bushel from last year. Expected grain area totals 32.3 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2011 but up 2 percent from last year. Harvest in the 18 major producing States was 56 percent complete by July 3, four points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 551 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year. The United States yield is forecast at 41.7 bushels per acre, down 4.4 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 13.2 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2011 but down 1 percent from last year.

Oats production is forecast at 56.6 million bushels, down 30 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the lowest production on record, surpassing the previous record low set last year. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 60.5 bushels per acre, down 3.8 bushels from 2010. Growers expect to harvest 934,000 acres for grain or seed, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 26 percent from last year. If realized, this will be smallest harvested area on record, also surpassing the previous record low set last year. Compared with 2010, yield decreases are expected in 13 of the 17 estimating States.

Barley production for 2011 is forecast at 173 million bushels, down 4 percent from 2010. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 69.6 bushels per acre, down 3.5 bushels from last year's record high. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.48 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 1 percent from 2010. A record high yield is expected in Utah.

The U.S. **peach** production forecast is 1.13 million tons, down 2 percent from 2010. Twelve of the 23 Freestone peach estimating States expect decreases in production from last year, while eight States increased their production from the previous season, and three States showed no change. Freestone production, at 697,140 tons, is down 3 percent from last season. The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 430,000 tons, down slightly from a year ago. Crop development was slowed due to spring rains and cooler than normal April temperatures. This year's statewide full bloom date was three days later than last year. The Extra Early and Early varieties were reported to have a heavy set, while the Late and Extra Late varieties were reported to have an average set. The California Freestone crop is forecast at 385,000 tons, unchanged from 2010. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, thus benefiting the Freestone crop. Weather during the bloom period was very beneficial, which resulted in a good set. Growers were expecting to thin more this year due to the good set. There have been some reports of hail damage on the early varieties, but overall the crop has been reported as good. Early variety peach harvest began during May. Harvest continued during June with Brittney Lane, Crimson Lady, Ivory Princess, and Snow Brite the major varieties harvested.

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Potato growers across the United States planted an estimated 1.08 million acres of potatoes in all four seasons of the 2011 crop year, up 6 percent from the previous year. Area for harvest, forecasted at 1.07 million acres, is also up 6 percent from 2010. Area planted to **fall potatoes** in 2011 is estimated at 948,600 acres, up 6 percent from the 2010 crop year. Harvested area is forecast at 936,100 acres, also up 6 percent from 2010. In Idaho, growers increased acreage from last year driven by strong prices. In California, adequate water supplies led to increased potato acreage in the Klamath Basin. In Colorado producers continued to voluntarily limit acreage for water conservation. Less than optimal planting and growing conditions delayed the fall potato crop in Maine where potato development was 1-2 weeks behind schedule as of June 19. Heavy rains in mid-June reportedly led to drown outs in some low lying areas. In North Dakota, cold, wet weather caused delays in planting. In Oregon, crop development was reportedly behind due to cold, wet spring conditions.

Production of **summer potatoes** is forecast at 12.1 million hundredweight, up 4 percent from 2010. Harvested area is estimated at 38,700 acres, 3 percent above last year. Average yield is forecast at 313 hundredweight per acre, up 3 hundredweight from 2010. In New Jersey, weather conditions delayed planting but fields were reportedly in good condition. In Virginia, nearly ideal conditions persisted with timely rains and hot weather allowing good growth. In Kansas, hot, dry and windy conditions reportedly slowed crop progress. Excessive April and May rains in Missouri caused crop losses in some areas and negatively impacted yields. In Texas, growers were experiencing dry conditions.